



HF Happenings 382

November 2009

HF Happenings via Yahoo Groups HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

South African Radio League Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Santa Claus

Once again, Santa's own amateur radio station OH9SCL will be active from Santa Claus Land (SCL) in the Arctic Circle, during the month of December. Activity will be on 160 - 10 metres using CW, SSB and the Digital modes.

Among Santa's helpers, the following operators will be there operating - Raimo, OH3BHL, Erkki, OH9KL, Kimmo, OH9MDV, Juha, OH9MM, and Aaro, OH9RJ. QSL via OH9UV - Santa Claus Land, Napapiirin Yhdeksikot Ry, PL 50, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland. A special "Santa Claus Land" award is available, for more information about the award, please visit the SCL Web page at kotisivu.dnainternet.net/rakarttu/OH9SCL_2007/OH9SCL_2007

SARL Office Closed Over the Holiday Period

The SARL office at the National Amateur Radio Centre will be closed from 15 December 2009 and reopen on Monday 11 January 2010. During that period any urgent matters should addressed to the secretary to secretary@sarl.org.za.

Port Elizabeth ARS HF QSO Party

The annual PEARS HF QSO Party will be run on Sunday 6 December 2009 from 14:00 to 18:00 CAT with activity on 40 and 80 metres. See page 5 of this issue for the rules.

ICASA to Put SADC Reciprocal License Proposal to CRASA

At the quarterly ICASA/SARL Liaison Committee meeting held on Thursday, the SARL requested that ICASA consider a reciprocal licensing agreement with SADC countries. Some SADC countries are already issuing licenses to South African visitors and the SARL requested ICASA to do so reciprocally and to include all SADC countries.

ICASA responded positively and will set the wheels in motion from both a South African, as well as a SADC perspective. The concept will be put to the Communication Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA).

CRASA is an association of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) regulators and other stakeholders in the information and communications industry in Southern Africa. CRASA was founded in 1997 within the framework of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology.

December

ZS10WCS operated by the East Rand ARC

1 World Aids day
5/6 ARRL 160 metre contest
6 PEARS HF QSO Party
7 closing date SARL HF Field Day logs
11 Schools close
12/13 ARRL 10 metre contest
16 Day of Reconciliation
19/20 Croatian CW contest
25 Christmas Day
26 Family Day
26/27 Stew Perry Top band contest
31 end of 2009 CQ DX Marathon





This was a response to the SADC leadership's common vision, which recognised that the individual information and communications sectors in the region were too small to have a comparative advantage in the global arena - and furthermore to attract adequate investment to build modern infrastructure for provision of universally accessed ICT services. In essence, our historical linkage to our regional economic community - the SADC - positions us better to lobby for a conducive regulatory environment to investment throughout the region.

Other issues discussed included the table of frequency allocation, access to 135,7 to 137,8 kHz, expansion of the 160 metre band, a new allocation around 5 MHz and various issues regarding the microwave bands. It was also agreed that in future, ZS9 call signs would only be allocated to competition stations.

The next meeting will be held in mid-February.

IARU Says WRC-12 Preparations Are Underway

WRC-12 will commence in January 2012. The year 2012 seems far away, but it is only slightly more than two years from now. Preparations within national telecoms administrations have been under way for some time. Regional telecoms organisations have been meeting to discuss the WRC agenda items and to arrive at regional positions on each issue.

IARU Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD, said that every IARU member society capable of doing so, should take the initiative to liaise with their own administration and let the administration know what the IARU's position is on those WRC agenda items that influence the amateur radio service.

The SARL is participating in the WRC preparatory meetings and will attend a WRC capacity-building workshop on ITU-R procedures and processes on 7 and 8 December.

The most significant WRC agenda items are:

1. Agenda Item (AI) 1.14 - Implementation of the radiolocation service in the range 30 to 300 MHz;
2. AI 1.15 - Possible allocations in the range 3 to 50 MHz to the radiolocation service for oceanographic radar applications;
3. AI 1.19 - Software-defined radio systems;
4. AI 1.22 - The effect of emissions from short-range devices; and
5. AI 1.23 - To consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415 to 526,5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services.

ARRL 160 Metre Contest

Object of the contest is for amateurs worldwide to work W/VE amateurs on 160 metres CW only, complete rules can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/160-meters.html>. This year's event will run from 22:00 UTC on 4 December to 16:00 UTC on 6 December.

IOTA Annual Update (New Deadline)

The deadline for this year and future years is 31 JANUARY (one day earlier than previously). Applications or updates submitted online on or before 31 January 2010 will count for the 2010 Honour Roll and Annual Listings so long as the supporting cards sent to checkpoints are postmarked no later than that date. Updates postmarked after 31 January will be processed in the





normal way but scores will be held over to the following year's listing. To remain listed in the performance tables participants will need to have updated at least once since February 2005.

On-line credit for QSOs made during the 2009 IOTA Contest is expected to be claimable around Easter 2010.

Icom IC706 has ceased production

News has filtered through from ICOM Japan that the very popular IC-706 Mark 2 G HF, VHF and UHF Transceiver has ceased production. Advice has also been received from ICOM premium dealer Navcom Electronics that there are only 14 units currently held in stock in Australia and that this stock is expected to deplete rapidly.

There is good news as well though, as from 16 November 2009 all ICOM amateur radio equipment is being backed with a 5-year warranty.

Thanks to Bazz, VK4TBD, at Navcom Electronics for most of this information. [WIA News]

Version 2.0 of WSPR Released

Joe Taylor K1JT has released a new version of his Weak Signal Propagation Reporter software WSPR. WSPR (pronounced "whisper") stands for "Weak Signal Propagation Reporter." This program is designed for sending and receiving low-power transmissions to test propagation paths on the MF and HF bands. Users with internet access can watch results in real time at WSPRnet.

WSPR 2.0 introduces a number of new features including a user-friendly setup screen with drop-down selection of audio devices and rig-control parameters, support for compound call signs, fine selection of the fractional time for transmitting, and a Tune button.

A new Advanced setup screen offers optional CW identification and tools for frequency calibration and automated frequency corrections for your radio.

Full details are presented in the WSPR 2.0 User's Guide, which you will need to read in order to use the new features.

WSPR 2.0 can be downloaded from <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wspr.html>

The Worlds First Radio Station

What is the world's first radio station? Although AM radio broadcasts were tested in 1906 and used for voice and music broadcasts up until WW1 it was not until 1916 in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania when 8XK began regularly scheduled broadcasts. 8XK would receive the first official broadcasting license in 1920 with the call sign KDKA.

However, there is more to this story. At 6:00 PM on 2 November 1920 the US presidential election returns were announced from a shack in East Pittsburgh by Leo Rosenberg and KDKA became the world's first commercial radio station.

More on this story is at the National Museum of Broadcasting website at http://nmbpgh.org/conrad_project/historical_background/commercial.htm

Special Event Stations

A special amateur radio station will be operating at UNAIDS HQ in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 - 7 December, with the special event call sign 4U1AIDS. They invite people to observe the "World AIDS Day" and demonstrate global HIV awareness. International World Aids Day 2009





Amateur Radio Certificate: Those amateur radio stations, which have a radio contact with 4U1AIDS on any 3 amateur radio bands, will awarded a special commemorative certificate "World AIDS Day Award". Amateur radio stations that have radio contact with 4U1AIDS on 5 amateur radio bands will be awarded a special commemorative UNAIDS pennant. **Special QSL card:** For each radio contact with 4U1AIDS, a special QSL card will be sent. **QSL information:** For further information, please get in contact with: Andrey Fedorov, UNAIDS, 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211, Geneva 27, Switzerland. Official UNAIDS WEB site: www.UNAIDS.org/. Amateur Radio 4U1AIDS web site: www.DX-World.com/4u1aids

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 30 November to 7 December 2009

ARCI Topband Sprint

00:00 - 06:00 UTC 3 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: CW Only; SSB Only; Mixed

Max operating hours: 6 hours

Exchange: ARCI: RST, state, province or country and ARCI No; non-ARCI: RST, state, province or country and power out

Work stations: Once regardless of mode

QSO Points: ARCI Member: 5 points; Non-Member Different Continent: 4 points; Non-Member Same Continent: 2 points

Multipliers: States, once regardless of mode; VE Provinces, once regardless of mode; Countries, once regardless of mode

CW Power Mult: x1 >5 W, x7 1 - 5 W, x10 250 mW - 1 W, 15x 55 - 250 mW, 20x <55 mW

SSB Power Mult: x1 >10 W, x7 2 - 10 W, x10 500 mW - 2 W, 15x 100 - 500 mW, 20x <55 mW

Mixed Power Mult: smaller of CW or SSB power multiplier

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult

Submit logs by: 3 January 2010

E-mail logs to: [contest\[at\]qrparci\[dot\]org](mailto:contest[at]qrparci[dot]org)

Mail logs to: ARCI Top Band Sprint, c/o Jeff Hetherington, VA3JFF, 139 Elizabeth St. W., Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada

Find rules at:

<http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/5267/118/>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 December

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 6 December 2009

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

ARRL 160-Meter Contest

22:00 UTC 4 December to 16:00 UTC 6 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op (QRP, Low or High); Multi-Single

Max operating hours: 42 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RST and ARRL/RAC Section; DX: RST

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with ARRL/RAC Section; W/VE Station: 5 points per DX QSO

Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC Sections; Each DXCC Country (W/VE only)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total section mults and total country mults)





Submit logs by: 16:00 UTC 5 January 2010
E-mail logs to: 160meter[at]arrl[dot]org
Mail logs to: 160 Meter Contest, ARRL, 225
Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA
Find rules at:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/160-meters.html>

TARA RTTY Melee

00:00 UTC-24:00 UTC 5 December
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op (Low or High); Multi-Op (Low or High); SWL
Max operating hours: 16 hours, off time in no more than 2 blocks
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts
Exchange: W/VE: RST and state or province;
DX: RST and Serial No
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each state once only; Each VE province/territory once only; Each DXCC country once only
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total state mults and total province mults and total country mults)
Submit logs by: 2 January 2010
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_score.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint

04:00 - 04:29 UTC; 04:30 - 04:59 UTC and
05:00 - 05:29 UTC and 05:30 - 06:00 UTC 5
December
Mode: CW
Bands: 40, 20m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, Serial No, suffix of previous QSO ("QRP" for 1st QSO)
Work stations: Once per band per period
QSO Points: 1 point per km
Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked on each band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total multiplier points
Submit logs by: 12 December 2009
E-mail logs to: ru-qrp-club[at]mail[dot]ru
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://qrp.ru/modules/sections/index.php?op=viewarticle&artid=7&page=1>

TOPS Activity Contest

16:00 UTC 5 December to 17:59 UTC 6 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op (QRP, Low or High); Multi-Single
Max power: High: >100 watts; Low: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: TOPS/PRO-CW Members: RST, Serial No and Member Abbreviation; non-Members: RST and Serial No
Work stations: Once
QSO Points: QSO with own country: 1 point; QSO with own continent: 2 points; QSO with TOPS/PRO-CW member: 2 bonus points; QSO between TOPS/PRO-CW members: 6 bonus points
Multipliers: Each prefix
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 December 2009
E-mail logs to: yo2rr[at]clicknet[dot]ro
Mail logs to: Ioan Branga, YO2RR, Str. Imperatul Traian nr. 2, RO-305500 Lugoj, Romania
Find rules at:
<http://www.procwclub.yo6ex.ro/TOP%20OF%20OPERATORS%20ACTIVITY%20CONTEST.pdf>

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 8 December

PEARS HF contest 6 December * ARRL 10 Metre contest 12 & 13 December





NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 9 December
NCCC Sprint 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 December
ARRL 10-Meter Contest 00:00 UTC 12 December to 24:00 UTC 13 December
Feld Hell Sprint 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 12 December
MDXA PSK DeathMatch, 00:00 UTC 12 December to 24:00 UTC 13 December
International Naval Contest, 16:00 UTC 12 December to 15:59 UTC 13 December
SKCC Weekend Sprint, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 13 December
CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run 21:00 - 22:59 UTC 13 December

This week in History

1867 Barbed wire patented by Joseph Gidden, USA.
1889 First Jukebox used, Palais Royale Saloon, San Francisco, USA.
1902 Marconi sends faint signals across the Atlantic from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada to Poldhu, Cornwall.
1910 Royal Australian Navy created by the Australian Naval Defence Act.

The Pears HF QSO Party

Aim. For DX operators and South African stations make as many contacts with other South African stations on HF as possible.

Contest Period. The first Sunday in December, the contest runs from 12:00 UTC to 16:00 UTC (14:00 to 18:00 CAT) [6 December 2009]

Modes and Frequencies. The mode is SSB only. The following frequencies shall be used: 3,603 to 3,650 and 3,700 to 3,800 MHz; 7,060 to 7,100 and 7,130 to 7,200 MHz

Entrance Categories. There are four entrance categories:

Novice - Stations in South Africa with ZU prefixes.
Restricted - Stations in South Africa with ZR prefixes.
Unlimited - Stations in South Africa with ZS prefixes
DX - stations outside of South Africa.

Station Requirements. There are no limitations on the power of stations, or the number of operators, or the location of station equipment except that all operators shall operate within the limits of their licenses at all times.

Points

A contact between two ZU stations scores 5 points
A contact between two ZR stations scores 2 points.
A contact between a ZU station and a ZR/ZS station scores 3 points
A contact between a ZS station and a ZR/ZS station scores 1 point.
A contact between a ZU station and a DX station scores 5 points.
A contact between a ZR/ZS station and a DX station scores 1 point.
Only one contact with each station on each band counts. Points can be claimed for multiple contacts with the same station on different bands.

Exchange. Call signs, signal report and the operator's name

Awards. DX - An award will be made to the top entrant. Novice, Restricted and Unlimited - An award will be made to the top 2 entrants in each category.

Logs. Logs can be sent via snail-mail to: PEARS QSO Party, PO Box 5277, Walmer, 6070, Republic of South Africa or via email to contest@zs2pe.co.za. Closing date for submission of





logs is 31 December. No late submissions will be considered. Results will be announced via the PEARS website and HF Happenings by the third weekend of January.

Closing date for log submission: 31 December 2009.

2009 ARRL 10-Metre Contest Rules

Object: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10-metre band.

Date and Contest Period: Second full weekend of December. Starts 00:00 UTC Saturday; ends 23:59 UTC Sunday (12 - 13 December 2009). All stations operate no more than 36 hours out of the 48-hour period. Listening time counts as operating time.

Entry Categories:

Single Operator: (9 categories)

QRP - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW); Phone only; CW only

Low Power - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW); Phone only; CW only

High Power - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW); Phone only; CW only

Multi-operator, Single Transmitter, mixed mode (only) - Includes single operators using packet or spotting assistance.

Contest Exchange:

W/VE stations (including Hawaii and Alaska) send signal report and state or province (District of Columbia stations send signal report and DC).

DX stations (including KH2, KP4, etc) transmit signal report and sequential serial number starting with 001.

Maritime mobile stations send signal report and ITU Region (R1, R2 or R3).

Scoring:

QSO points: Two (2) points for each complete two-way phone QSO; Four (4) points for each two-way CW QSO.

Multipliers: (per mode, phone and CW): Each US state and the District of Columbia. Canada [NB (VE1, 9), NS (VE1), QC (VE2), ON (VE3), MB (VE4), SK (VE5), AB (VE6), BC (VE7), NWT (VE8), NF, (VO1), LB (VO2)], YT (VY1), PEI (VY2) NU (VYØ); DXCC countries (except US and Canada). KH6 and KL7 participate and count as US states and send HI or AK as that part of their exchange; ITU regions (maritime mobiles only).

Final Score: Multiply QSO points by total multipliers (the sum of states/VE provinces/DXCC countries/ITU regions per mode). Example: KA1RWY works 2 235 stations including 1 305 phone QSOs, and 930 CW QSOs, for a total of 6 330 QSO points. She works 49 states, 10 Canadian call areas, 23 DXCC entities and a maritime mobile station in Region 2 on Phone and 30 states, 8 Canadian call areas, and 19 DXCC countries on CW for a total multiplier of 140. Final score = 6 330 (QSO points) X 140 (multiplier) = 886 200 points.

Miscellaneous:

Single operator mixed-mode and multi-operator stations may work stations once on CW and once on SSB.

Your call sign must indicate your DXCC country if competing as DX. (N6TR in Oregon does not send N6TR/7, but K1NO in Puerto Rico must send K1NO/KP4).

All entrants may transmit only one signal on the air at any given time.





All CW contacts must take place below 28.3 MHz.

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to: the highest-scoring single-operator station (in each category) from each ARRL/RAC Section and DXCC country; Top multi-operator entries in each ARRL Division, Canada and each continent; Additional certificates will be awarded as participation warrants.

Miscellaneous:

All electronic logs (computer generated) must submit an ASCII text file of the log information in Cabrillo file format. Paper printouts of the electronic file are not acceptable substitutes.

Hand-written paper logs are acceptable submissions.

All entries must be emailed or postmarked by 00:00 UTC Wednesday 13 January 2010.

Email entries only to: 10meter@arrl.org. Submissions require Cabrillo log file with all required information (including exchange sent, category entered, power and ARRL/RAC section - see General Rules for specific file format).

Electronic files not in Cabrillo file format may be designated as checklogs.

Paper entries should be mailed to 10-Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Paper entries must be submitted on current ARRL entry forms or an acceptable facsimile.

Forms are available for downloading at the Contest Branch Homepage at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>

Forms are available for an SASE sent to the Contest Branch.

Logs may be submitted via the web applet at www.b4h.net/cabforms

See "General Rules for All ARRL Contests" and "General Rules for ARRL Contests on bands below 30 MHz (HF)" on the ARRL Web.

General queries should be directed to the Contest Branch at contests@arrl.org or by calling (860) 594-0232.

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslite, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, Q-News, the RSGB News, Maurice, F5NQL, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

